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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ISRAEL BEMOANS THE SHIFTING SANDS

EMBASSY TEL AVIV HAS ASSESSED ISRAELI PERCEPTIONS OF "THE DARKENING WATERS" OF US-ISRAEL RELATIONS. AS MANY ISRAELIS SEE IT:

--THE US DECISION TO ESTABLISH A LIMITED ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT PORTENDS A CHANGING MIDDLE EAST ARMS BALANCE TO ISRAEL'S ULTIMATE DISADVANTAGE.

--THE UNSC SCRANTON SPEECH FORESHADOWS THE REVIVAL OF THE ROGERS PLAN AFTER THE US ELECTIONS AND VIOLATED SINAI II UNDERSTANDINGS.

--THE REESTABLISHMENT OF A US POSITION IN THE ARAB
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WORLD COULD COME AT THE EXPENSE OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

--PRESIDENT FORD'S OPPOSITION TO TRANSITIONAL QUARTER AID FOR ISRAEL HAS TRIGGERED HOSTILE ATTACKS ON THE RABIN GOVERNMENT FOR NOT PERCEIVING THE IMPLICATIONS OF ISRAEL'S GROWING DEPENDENCY.

EMBASSY CONCLUSION: THE RIGHT WING WILL FAN PUBLIC SUSPICIONS OF US INTENTIONS IN ORDER TO UNDERCUT RABIN, AND THIS MAY INVOLVE DEEPENING STRAINS IN US-ISRAELI RELATIONS. BUT THESE ARE, WE BELIEVE, MANAGEABLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 2544, 4/9.)

2. PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS HOPE TO REGAIN LOST MOMENTUM

SOARES PROVIDED AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI WITH THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT POLL COMMISSIONED BY HIS PARTY. WHILE IT INDICATES THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAVE LOST SOME MOMENTUM, THE PROJECTED RESULTS ALSO:

--SHOW THAT THE SOCIALISTS WILL GET ABOUT 35 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, A FIGURE SHORT OF THE 40 PERCENT SOARES STATES IS NEEDED TO GOVERN ALONE;

--GIVE THE COMMUNISTS ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF THE FINAL VOTE, THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS 28 PERCENT, AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER 25 PERCENT.

THE SOCIALISTS WILL ATTEMPT TO REGAIN LOST ENTHUSIASM THROUGH A MASS RALLY IN LISBON APRIL 11, TO WHICH THEY HOPE TO ATTRACT 100,000 ADHERENTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE A SOCIALIST COALITION WITH ONE OR MORE PARTIES ON THE RIGHT IS THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS. A ONE-PARTY SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IS THE NEXT BEST BET, WHILE A SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COALITION IS AN IMPROBABLE OUTCOME. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 2341, 4/9.)

3. SABOTAGE BEGINS ON RHODESIA'S RAIL LINKS

BOTSWANA RADIO REPORTED APRIL 9 THAT SECURITY FORCES FOUND
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AND DETONATED AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE ON THE RUTENGA-BEITBRIDGE LINE. IT WAS THE FIRST SUCH DEVICE FOUND ON THE LINE WHICH, THE BROADCAST CLAIMED, CARRIES "70 PERCENT" OF RHODESIA'S TRAFFIC SINCE THE CLOSING OF THE MOZAMBIQUE BORDER. (UNCLASSIFIED) GABORONE 659, 4/9.) KISSINGER

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